MARVELS

IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO -- BUT IT WAS A *DIFFERENT TIME.*

LOOK *ALIVE,* PEOPLE!

THREE OF THOSE *COSTUMED MANIACS* ARE RIPPING UP DOWNTOWN! THEY GOT A MAD ON FOR THE *AVENGERS* AND THEY'RE TAKIN' IT OUT ON *US!*

ALL I WANT TO SEE ARE *REAR ENDS* HEADED FOR THE --

PHIL -- YOU'RE STILL *HERE!* GOOD.

HERE'S *FIVE ROLLS* OF FILM. USE 'EM UP -- I DON'T WANT THE *BUGLE* BEATING US OUT AGAIN.

MISTER BUSHKIN -- AS A *FREELANCER,* I DON'T ALLY MYSELF WITH --

DOUBLE RATE FOR *EXCLUSIVE FIRST-USE* -- WHATEVER YOU GET.

YOU *GOT* IT.

THERE WAS SO MUCH ENERGY IN NEW YORK. AS IF FIREWORKS HAD BEEN GOING OFF FOR MONTHS --

THE BIRTH OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR --

THOR --

GIANT-MAN --

THE RETURN OF THE SUB-MARINER --

AND OF COURSE, THE BIGGEST BLAST OF ALL -- THE SHOW-STOPPER THAT LIT UP THE WORLD LIKE A DOZEN FOURTH OF JULYS ROLLED INTO ONE --

TAXI

THERE HE IS!

JUST TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIM -- ALWAYS IN MOTION, ALWAYS MOVING *FORWARD* -- LIKE A FORCE OF NATURE IN CHAIN MAIL --

NEVER A *HESITATION* OR A *BACKWARD GLANCE* --

I *HEARD* HE'D RETURNED, BUT I NEVER --

I DID! UP BY MACY'S -- HE VAULTED *CLEAR ACROSS* THIRTY-FOURTH STREET!

ISN'T HE *WONDER-FUL?!*

GEE!

HE SAVED MY *WHOLE UNIT,* BACK IN THE BIG ONE...

SAVED A *LOTTA UNITS,* POPS!

WE WERE IN AWE OF HIM. OF *ALL* OF THEM.

PHIL! THE *BLACK KNIGHT'S* BUZZIN' *CANAL STREET!*

LET'S *MOVE!*

AND EVEN WHEN WE WERE SCARED -- WHEN LIVES WERE THREATENED --

BLAST! THERE HE GOES!

GET A *SHOT,* PHIL!

GOT IT!

WHAT *IS* THIS GUNK? IT AIN'T -- *POISON,* IS IT?!

IT WAS-- IT WAS -- HE STUCK US TO THE *GROUND* --

COULDN'T *MOVE* --

IT'LL BE *OKAY,* HONEY. THE *AVENGERS'LL* GET HIM!

-- WE KNEW THEY'D *COME THROUGH* FOR US -- THAT THEY'D *MAKE EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT.*

THERE -- *IRON MAN!*

LIKE I SAID, IT WAS A DIFFERENT TIME.

IT WAS LIFE OR DEATH --

IT WAS GRAND OPERA --

IT WAS THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH --

-- AND WE -- EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US --

-- WE HAD THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE.

I GOT IT...I GOT IT...

PHIL...

CRIPES! THE SIZE OF 'IM -- !

WILLYA LOOK AT THAT?

HOLY -- !

WOW!

KLUK

A *FRONT PAGE* FOR SURE. MONEY IN THE BANK.

MAYBE EVEN A *MAGAZINE COVER*, DOWN THE LINE.

MAYBE MORE THAN *THAT*, IF I'M LUCKY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

TELL YOU LATER -- I DON'T WANT TO *JINX* IT. GET THAT TO BUSHKIN FOR ME. WOULD YOU, FRED?

I'VE GOT AN *APPOINTMENT*.

I'D BEEN A FREELANCE NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER FOR YEARS, AND I *LOVED* IT.

STILL, I WAS A FAMILY MAN, AND I HAD TO THINK ABOUT THE *FUTURE*...

NICE. *NICE*, VERY NICE.

SANTO RICO

COUNTRY IN CRISIS

ESPECIALLY THIS ONE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR. IT'S SO -- *HUMAN*.

THE WAY THE THING IS LOOKING AT *MISTER FANTASTIC* -- YOU'D ALMOST THINK HE HATES HIM!

THAT WAS THEIR FIRST *PRESS CONFERENCE*. I WAS PRETTY LUCKY.

STILL, I DON'T KNOW. AN ENTIRE BOOK OF *NEWS PHOTOS*? YOU REALLY THINK THE PUBLIC WOULD --

DON'T THINK OF THEM AS NEWS PHOTOS. THEY'RE MORE, UM-- *CELEBRITY SHOTS*.

BENNETT'S

PEOPLE ARE *FASCINATED* WITH THE MARVELS. EVERYWHERE I *GO* --

"*MARVELS*?"

THAT'S WHAT I CALL THEM. I THINK IT'D MAKE A GOOD *TITLE*, TOO.

I SUPPOSE. YOU'VE PUT TOGETHER AN *ATTRACTIVE PACKAGE* --

-- AND I CAN'T DENY YOU'RE AN *EXCELLENT PHOTOGRAPHER*.

BUT I'M NOT SURE WE COULD SUCCESSFULLY *PUBLISH* A --

NO -- IT'S *TRUE*! I SAW IT!

REALLY?

LOOKED LIKE HE WAS OVER THE *PARKWAY INTERCHANGE*!

Eh -- ?

WHAT IN --?!

LET *ME* SEE!

THE *HUMAN TORCH!*

NO *KIDDIN'*, MALLET-HEAD! DIDJA THINK IT WAS THE *HULK*, MAYBE?

A FANTASTIC FOUR *ALERT SIGNAL!*

I WONDER WHAT MISSION THEY'RE OFF ON *NOW?*

LET ME JUST POINT OUT THAT THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THERE ARE *NEW YORKERS*, MISTER SCHWED.

THEY SEE THIS KIND OF THING *ALL THE TIME.*

THINK ABOUT HOW THEY'D REACT IN CHICAGO. SAN DIEGO. *PEORIA* --

ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT. I DON'T NEED TO HAVE A *HOUSE* FALL ON ME.

I'LL GIVE YOUR *AGENT* A CALL. WE'LL TALK TERMS.

GREAT!

SO WHO DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD GET TO WRITE THE *TEXT?*

ISAAC ASIMOV?

BEN URICH?

NORMAN MAILER?

WELL, SINCE YOU MENTION IT -- I WAS KIND OF HOPING *I* COULD TAKE A CRACK AT IT...

HMMM...

THAT'D BE ALL RIGHT, I SUPPOSE -- BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU A CONTRACT WITHOUT SEEING SOME *SAMPLES.*

TELL YOU WHAT -- YOU COME BACK WITH A *CHAPTER* OR TWO -- OR ANYTHING THAT SHOWS ME YOU CAN *WRITE* --

-- AND IT'S A DEAL.

THANKS. YOU WON'T *REGRET* THIS.

NOT IF IT MAKES *MONEY,* I WON'T.

IT'S BEEN A *PLEASURE,* PHIL.

A BOOK.

I WAS GOING TO WRITE A BOOK.

EMPIRE BOOKS

EMP E BOOKS

HOW WOULD IT START?

GERAKLES AND GILGAMESH. Roland and King Arthur. The names of legend. But the legends are being outshone, in the form of

NAH. TOO HIGHBROW.

Colorful *costumes*. *Peculiar* names. Astounding *powers*. Put them together and

NAH. TOO CORNY.

HUH?

WHAT THE -- ?!

KEEP *AFTER* 'EM!

DON'T LET THOSE MONSTERS *GET AWAY!*

DOWN *THAT* WAY!

SURROUND 'EM!

*MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS THAT IT MIGHT BE A **STORY** -- THAT I SHOULD GET SOME PICTURES.*

NEW! CLOTHING INSPIRED BY THE WONDERFUL- WASP!!

*I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE **PURSE-SNATCHERS** -- BUT THE CROWD WASNT JUST ANGRY -- THEY WERE **FRIGHTENED.***

WHAT IS IT -- WHAT'S HAPPENED?!

THEY TRIED TO *KILL HIM!*

WHO -- ?

A CONSTRUCTION WORKER -- THEY ATTACKED HIM JUST FOR THE *THRILL* OF IT!

NO -- I MEANT --

SOME-BODY'S GOT TO *DO* SOME-THING!

"THEY KNOCKED HIM RIGHT OFF THE *SCAFFOLDING* SOMEHOW --

"BUT THAT WASN'T *ENOUGH* FOR THEM!

"THEY TRIED TO *BLAST* HIM TO BITS --

"-- *CLAWED* AT HIM --

"-- TRIED TO *SMASH* HIM INTO THE WALL!

HE'S STILL *ALIVE* --

-- BUT WE'RE GONNA *SHOW* 'EM THEY CAN'T MESS WITH *REAL HUMANS* --!

I HEARD LATER -- SOMEONE SAID THEY WERENT TRYING TO *KILL* THE MAN, BUT SAVE HIM *AFTER* HE FELL.

BUT THAT DIDN'T MAKE ANY *SENSE*. THEY WANTED US ALL *DEAD*.

NEW!
CLOTHING INSPIRED BY THE
DERFUL
ASPI

EVERYBODY KNEW THAT.

THE X-MEN.

I'D NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE, BUT I'D *HEARD* OF THEM.

SUPER-POWERED MUTANTS. *FREAKS.* THEY *LOOKED* JUST LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE --

-- BUT YOU NEVER *COULD TELL.*

STAY *BACK!* DON'T *TOUCH* ME!

YOU HEARD THE LADY! *BACK OFF!*

WHAT'SA *MATTER,* GIRLIE? REAL HUMANS NOT *GOOD ENOUGH* FOR YA?

SAME TO YOU!

WE DON'T WANT YOUR KIND AROUND HERE!

THEY WERE CRIMINALS -- *KILLERS* --

STINKIN' *MUTIES!*

WE MOVED IN --

THERE WAS A CHUNK OF BRICK IN MY HAND --

OWW!

WHY, YOU MISERABLE --!

ICEMAN -- DON'T!

FORGET ABOUT IT! THEY'RE NOT WORTH IT!

LIKE A SUMMER SQUALL, IT ENDED QUICKLY.

THE ONE THEY CALLED CYCLOPS BLASTED A HOLE IN THE WALL. AND THEY VANISHED INTO THE SHADOWS.

THE CROWD DISPERSED.

BUT HIS WORDS STAYED WITH ME

"THEY'RE NOT WORTH IT."

"NOT WORTH IT."

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?!

ON THE WAY HOME, I WONDERED WHY I DID WHAT I DID.

I WAS A *NEWSMAN*. I DIDN'T MAKE THE NEWS -- I *OBSERVED* IT

AT LEAST, I USUALLY DID.

BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING *ABOUT* THE MUTANTS.

THEY WERE THE *DARK SIDE* OF THE MARVELS. WHERE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND MISTER FANTASTIC SPOKE TO US ABOUT THE GREATNESS WITHIN US ALL --

-- THE MUTANTS WERE *DEATH*.

THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO *DO* ANYTHING. THEY WERE OUR *REPLACEMENTS*, SCIENTISTS SAID.

THE NEXT *EVOLUTIONARY STEP*.

WE -- HOMO SAPIENS -- WERE OBSOLETE. AND *THEY* WERE THE FUTURE.

THEY WERE GOING TO KICK THE DIRT ONTO OUR *GRAVES*.

THEY'RE NOT *WORTH* IT!

IT WAS A *TERRIFYING THOUGHT*.

WELL. OBSOLETE OR NOT. WE WEREN'T GOING OUT WITHOUT A *FIGHT*.

NOT WHEN WE HAD SO MUCH TO *PROTECT*.

RRRAH! YOU CAN'T BEAT ME, HULK! I'M *THE THING!* I'LL POUND YOUR UGLY GREEN *FACE!*

NO! YOU'RE NOT *GONNA!* YOU MEAN OL' --

-- uhhp --!

BETH!

YOU SHOULDN'T CLIMB UP SO *HIGH*, BETHIE.

I *HAD* TO. I'M THE HULK.

JENNY *ALWAYS* MAKES ME HAVE TO BE THE *BAD* GUYS.

I DO *NOT!* I LET YOU BE *SPIDER-MAN*, REMEMBER?

SPIDER-MAN'S *ICKY!*

I DIDN'T *ASK* IF THEY EVER PLAYED X-MEN.

PHIL! I *THOUGHT* I HEARD YOU COME IN!

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

PRETTY GOOD. I SOLD MY BOOK. I THINK

THAT'S *WONDERFUL!*

SO -- WHAT ARE YOU NOT *TELLING* ME? WHY DO YOU SOUND SO *WORRIED?*

WHAT WAS I GOING TO SAY? THAT I WAS SCARED MUTANTS WOULD ENSLAVE OUR DAUGHTERS?

I'M -- NOT SURE JENNY AND BETH SHOULD *IDOLIZE* THE MARVELS THAT WAY, DORIS.

IT MIGHT NOT BE *HEALTHY* --

OH *TOSH.* THEY'RE HEALTHY AS TWO *MONKEYS.*

AND NEED I REMIND YOU THAT IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN OVER YOUR *FEAR* OF THOSE GUYS --

-- WE'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN *MARRIED.*

IT WASN'T *FEAR,* EXACTLY...

OKAY -- *I'M* GONNA BE THE HUMAN TORCH. YOU BE *THE EEL* --

ICK!

IN A WAY, THE MUTANTS WERE **WORSE** THAN THE SUPER-VILLAINS.

THE EEL-- HE WAS JUST A MAN IN A SUIT.

DANGEROUS, SURE -- BUT THE TORCH WOULD STOP HIM.

WOULD **PROTECT** US.

WHO WOULD PROTECT US FROM THE **MUTANTS**?

I HAD TO WONDER: WERE THE MUTANTS THE **PRICE** WE PAID FOR THE MARVELS?

THE NEGATIVES WITHOUT WHICH THE PICTURES WE WANTED COULDN'T EXIST?

AFTER A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, THOUGH, I PUT THE MUTANTS OUT OF MY MIND.

THINGS WERE BACK TO NORMAL.

WE HAVENT MOVED IN TEN MINUTES. WHAT'S THE HOLDUP?

IT'S ON THE RADIO! GIANT-MAN'S FIGHTING SPIDER-MAN -- THE POLICE HAVE BLOCKADED THE AREA!

TRAFFIC'S BACKED UP -- THE TERMINAL'S A MESS!

CAN YOU SEE THEM FROM HERE?

WHAT DID SPIDER-MAN DO?

WHO CARES? CAN YOU SEE 'EM?

I WAS THINKING ABOUT PUTTING A NEW SECTION IN MY BOOK -- JUST PICTURES OF PEOPLE REACTING TO THE MARVELS

WHAT IF ONE OF THEM RIPPED SOMEONE'S CAR IN HALF? WHAT WOULD THE OWNER DO?

LOOK! IT'S THOR!

WHERE --?

LET ME SEE!

WHERE'S HE HEADED -- AVENGERS MANSION?

PROBABLY TRY TO GET HIM TO AUTOGRAPH THE PIECES.

Daily Globe
est 1624

WHADDYA MEAN, *'WHO?'*

KRAVEN! THE *BIG-GAME HUNTER!* HE'S COMIN' TO NEW YORK -- I NEED WHATEVER THE MORGUE *HAS* ON 'IM!

YEAH, THE *HEAVY MACHINERY* SHOW.

IT'S *BOB* -- HE'S GOT THE POLICE CAPTAIN AT THE *BARRICADE!*

NO, LOOK, IT'S A *GOOD TIP*, HE'S CALLIN' HIMSELF THE *BEETLE*, I THINK.

WHAT'RE YOU -- DEAF?!

PHIL!

WE'RE THE HOTTEST PAPER IN THE *CITY! LOOK* AT THIS!

GOT ANY *MORE?*

Daily Globe

AVENGERS ROUT MASTERS OF EVIL

JUST SOME *FILE* STUFF, MAYBE.

BUT, LOOK -- SINCE YOU'RE IN A *GOOD MOOD*, MISTER BUSHKIN --

CALL ME BARNEY. I KEEP *TELLING* YOU! WHAT -- ACCOUNTING MESS UP YOUR *CHECK?*

NO, NO - THE CHECK'S *FINE.*

I WAS JUST WONDERING -- IF YOU'D LET ME TRY MY HAND AT A LITTLE *WRITING* --?

YOU'RE NOT GIVING UP *PHOTOGRAPHY?*

NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT I JUST --

I GOT THE *PERFECT THING.* GAL NAMED MASTERS, HAVING A SCULPTURE EXHIBIT. HERE'S THE *PASSES.*

I NEED TEN INCHES BY NEXT WEDNESDAY.

SHE'S CONNECTED WITH THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* SOMEHOW. SO GET SOME PICTURES OF THEM IF THEY SHOW UP

THAT WAY, EVEN IF I HAVE TO *JUNK* THE ARTICLE --

"-- IT'S NOT A TOTAL LOSS."

LOOK! OVER *THERE!* IS THAT -- ?

SAY!

-- MY *AUTOGRAPH BOOK* --

-- STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE STATUE SHE *DID* OF HIM!

-- GONNA JUST *DIE* --

*NO. I FIGURED BARNEY WAS MAKING A PRETTY **SAFE BET**, CONSIDERING THE PICTURES I WAS GETTING.*

*OF COURSE, HE DID HAVE THE GLOBE'S **SOCIETY** MAN THERE, TOO -- AND NO WONDER.*

REED RICHARDS AND SUSAN STORM, WHOSE ROMANCE WAS A-LEVEL NEWS IN ALL THE GOSSIP COLUMNS. WERE THERE.

-- SUCH A *WONDERFUL COUPLE*, DON'T YOU THINK -- ?

-- HEARD THAT ON THE *SIDE*, SHE AND THE *SUB-MARINER* --

- WELL, I *NEVER* - !

*THE **HUMAN TORCH** WAS THERE, WITH SOME PRETTY TEENAGER.*

C'MON, DORRIE -- LET'S GRAB SOME *PUNCH.*

AND MAYBE I'LL HEAT UP A FEW *HORS D'OUEVRES* FOR YOU...

JOHNNY STORM, DON'T YOU *DARE* --!

WHAT'S THE OLD PHRASE? 'EVERYBODY WHO IS *ANYBODY* --'

-- THAT HANDSOME *ANTHONY STARK* --

-- RICH *AND* SINGLE

-- *WONDERFUL* EXHIBIT, ALICIA. YOU'VE CAPTURED THE AVENGERS *PERFECTLY* --

THANK YOU, MISTER STARK.

CALL ME TONY. I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS A *COMMISSIONED WORK* --

IT GIVES ME THE *SHIVERS*, DON!

IT'S JUST A CHUNK OF ROCK, JANE. BUT IT *IS* QUITE MENACING!

MAYBE *I'LL* BUY ONE, HANK!

AND JUST WHERE WOULD YOU *KEEP* IT, YOUNG LADY?

BUT I NOTICED THE BUZZ TENDED TO FADE DRAMATICALLY --

-- THE CLOSER YOU GOT TO A *SINGLE FIGURE.*

Oh!

LOOK, EUNICE -- BUT DON'T BE TOO *OBVIOUS!*

MY! HE CERTAINLY IS *UGLY*, ISN'T HE?

AT LEAST HE'S NOT ONE OF THOSE *HORRIBLE MUTIES* --!

I TOOK ABOUT *SIXTY SHOTS* AND HAD A BRIEF CHAT WITH THE *SCULPTRESS.*

AMAZING THAT A *BLIND WOMAN* COULD DO WORK LIKE THAT JUST FROM PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS.

BUT SHE'D CERTAINLY CHOSEN THE *RIGHT* SUBJECTS. THAT MUCH WAS CLEAR FROM THE EXHIBIT.

IF EVEN THE *THING* WAS ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC --

WHAT A *CITY!*

FROM THE HEIGHTS TO THE DEPTHS IN *MOMENTS.* THAT WAS THE NATURE OF THE PLACE.

AT LEAST IN THE SUBURBS, IT WAS *DIFFERENT.*

WE DIDN'T HAVE THE *MARVELS,* BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE THE *MUTANT SCARE,* EITHER.

OUT THERE, WE WERE AWAY FROM IT. WE WERE *SAFE.*

WE *ALL* THOUGHT THAT, BACK THEN.

JENNY, SIT UP *STRAIGHT*. BETH -- ELBOWS OFF THE TABLE.

SO DID MISTER BUSHKIN LIKE YOUR ARTICLE?

I JUST TURNED IT IN TO HIM TODAY -- HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO READ IT WHILE I WAS THERE.

OH. BUT I STOPPED BY THE *DAILY GAZETTE* OFFICES TODAY.

HM?

THEY'RE DOING A THINK PIECE ON THE WILLIAMS *EMBEZZLEMENT* CASE -- BOUGHT A BUNCH OF MY *IRON MAN* PICTURES.

UM -- WHAT'S THE CONNEC-TION?

WILLIAMS INNOVATIONS AND STARK INDUSTRIES ARE *COMPETITORS*, HONEY.

WILLIAMS CLAIMS STARK'S THE REASON HIS COMPANY IS *FAILING*. PRETTY LUDICROUS IF YOU ASK ME

=giggle!=

SHH!

BUT I GUESS I OWE HIM A *COMMISSION* -- I'D HARDLY HAVE SOLD THOSE PHOTOS OTHERWISE.

YOU SHUSH!

THEY WERE ACHINGLY *INNOCENT* -- AND I WANTED SO MUCH TO SHIELD THEM FROM ANYTHING THAT'D CHANGE THAT.

PLAYING THEIR *LITTLE-GIRL* GAMES -- SWIPING TABLE SCRAPS FOR SOME STRAY *DOG* OR *CAT* THEY'D BEFRIENDED --

IT WAS SO *ADORABLE* -- !

PAFF PAFF

THIS *WAY*, MISS STORM --

PAFF

ANOTHER *SHOT* --

SMILE, PLEASE --

PAFF

MEANWHILE. THE FIREWORKS DIDN'T STOP --

GENTLEMEN. *GENTLEMEN!*

SOME OF YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE GOTTEN *WORD* OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. BUT LET ME *MAKE* IT, ALL RIGHT?

YOU CAN TAKE ALL THE PHOTOS YOU WANT *AFTERWARD.*

AHEM

AS LEADER OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, AS A MAN DEEPLY AND *HOPELESSLY* IN LOVE --

-- I'M HONORED AND DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT SUSAN STORM AND I ARE *ENGAGED* --

-- AND THAT WE'LL BE GETTING MARRIED JUST AS *SOON* AS ALL THE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE!

TO CALL IT A BOMBSHELL HARDLY DID IT JUSTICE.

WE LOVE YOU, SUE!

CONGRATULATIONS!

JOHN

IT SEEMED LIKE EVERYONE WANTED TO BE A PART OF IT...

THIS WEEK ONLY: SUE STORM WEDDING SPECIAL

BOOK

A STORYBOOK ROMANCE

FE

FANTASTIC FOUR

eventeen

Johnny what do you think

A ONE-SHOT MAGAZINE -- A BOOK, REALLY, ON THE WEDDING

I DON'T KNOW, JONAH -- ALL MY F F PHOTOS?

SINCE WE GO WAY BACK, PHIL, I'M OFFERING A MODEST ROYALTY -- IN RETURN FOR PERPETUAL RIGHTS, OF COURSE...

TODAY 4-7

FOR A WHILE, IT ALMOST SEEMED AS IF NOTHING ELSE WAS GOING ON IN THE WORLD--

4-7

-- ALMOST --

FABULOUS *EXHIBIT PIECE,* PHIL. I'LL HAVE THE REWRITE BOYS SHOW YOU WHERE YOU WENT *WRONG,* FOR NEXT TIME.

NEXT TIME?

I'M PUTTIN' YOU ON THE GLOBE PRESS LIST FOR THE *F.F. WEDDING,* PAL. SO SAVE YOUR *TUX.*

BUT THE WORLD DIDN'T SLOW DOWN --

HOBBS! WHAT HAPPENED T'YOU? TRY TO BRING IN CREEL BY YOURSELF, DIDJA?

THIS HAS GONE WAY BEYOND A MANHUNT FOR AN ESCAPED CONVICT, BOYS!

CREEL'S GOT SOME KIND OF *FANTASTIC POWERS! THOR* TACKLED HIM -- AND GOT HIS *HAMMER* HANDED TO HIM!

PAFF

PAFF

PAFF

YES -- IT'S *TRUE!* THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS HAVE TAKEN A *LEAVE OF ABSENCE* --

-- AND *WE FOUR* WILL SOLDIER ON IN THEIR STEAD!

PAFF

IT'S *AWFUL!* MY BOSS -- HE SAW THE *WHOLE THING!*

YOU DON'T THINK THIS WILL STOP THE *WEDDING,* DO YOU?

DAILY CHRONICLE

SUSAN STORM ABDUCTED BY FRIGHTFUL FOUR

IGHTMARISH COUF ARRIED OUT IN FULL VIEW OF HORRIFIED OPULACE!

-- AND IT WAS EASY TO GET LOST IN IT -- TO FORGET ABOUT ANY PROBLEMS THAT WEREN'T IMMEDIATE ONES.

STILL, JUST BECAUSE YOU FORGET ABOUT SOMETHING --

-- DOESN'T MEAN IT'S *GONE.*

PHIL!

OVER HERE!

YOU'VE GOT A *SHOTGUN* AT HOME, DON'T YOU?

GRAB IT -- WE NEED ALL THE MEN WE CAN *ROUND UP!*

WHAT -- ?

WHAT'S GOING *ON,* ARTHUR?

MUTANTS!

WE *SAW* ONE -- OUT BY THE KEMPERERS' *TRASH CANS!*

A FACE LIKE A *SKULL* -- AND WHO *KNOWS* WHAT IT WAS UP TO?!

WE'VE GOT TO *GET* THEM, PHIL -- BEFORE THEY *GET US!*

WE'LL BE HEADING TOWARD THE *PARK!* CATCH UP WITH US!

MUTANTS -- HERE?!

*IT WASN'T FAIR. WE WORKED **SO HARD** TO GIVE OUR FAMILIES A GOOD LIFE -- TO KEEP THEM **SAFE** --*

-- IT WASN'T *FAIR* --

DADDY! DADDY!

DON'T LET THEM *HURT* HER, DADDY!

HURT HER? HURT *WHO?*

I -- I THINK YOU'D BETTER *SEE* THIS, PHIL.

DOWN IN THE *BASE-MENT.*

YOU REMEMBER THE *STRAY DOG?* THE ONE WE THOUGHT THE GIRLS WERE SNEAKING *FOOD* FOR?

I --

-- I --

HOW -- HOW *LONG* -- HAS IT --

I COULDN'T THINK. WAS IT *CONTAGIOUS?* IF THE GIRLS HAD TOUCHED IT --

IF THEY'D BEEN *INFECTED* SOMEHOW --

WE FOUND HER IN THE *PARK,* DADDY. AFTER THAT BIG STORM.

SHE WAS ALL *WET* AND *COLD* -- !

DADDY GOT FIRED OUTTA HIS WORK -- MOMMY CRIED ALL THE TIME.

THEY SAID THEY COULDN'T *TAKE CARE* OF ME ANYMORE -- THAT IT WAS ALL *MY FAULT* --

THEY W-WENT *AWAY*

THEY WERE EVIL! THE MUTANTS -- THEY WANTED TO KILL US ALL!

I WAS H-*HUNGRY,* MISTER. OR I'D HAVE KEPT *HIDING...*

EVERYBODY KNEW THAT!

A-ARE YOU GOING TO SEND ME *AWAY* -- ?

SHE'S *NICE*, DADDY! SHE PLAYS WITH US!

NICK COSGROVE AND ARTHUR LINDSTROM, OUT THERE WITH THEIR GUNS -- THEY WERE *FRIENDS* OF OURS. WE PLAYED BRIDGE WITH THEM.

BUT I *KNEW* --

-- THEY'D BURN THIS HOUSE DOWN AND US *IN* IT IF THEY KNEW WE WERE SHELTERING A *MUTANT*.

THEY WERE *THAT* SCARED. I WAS THAT SCARED.

BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING IN HER -- IN *ITS* EYES --

-- AND I COULDN'T HELP THINKING OF THE LIBERATION OF *AUSCHWITZ* -- AND THE LOOK IN *THEIR* EYES --

-- AND --

DAD -- ?

DEAR *GOD*, DORIS --

-- SHE'S JUST A *LITTLE GIRL* --!

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

I NEEDED MORE INFORMATION -- SOMETHING THAT WOULD HELP ME MAKE UP MY MIND...

T-SHIRTS!

REED & SUE 4-EVER

GETCHER OFFICIAL WEDDIN' T-SHIRTS!

INFORMATION ON MUTANTS?

SURE -- WE'RE ABOUT TO RUN A FEATURE SPREAD ON THEM. I'LL ASK BARNEY IF IT'S OKAY TO MAKE YOU A COPY.

YEAH, I GOT IT! STRAIGHT FROM THE CATERER'S ASSISTANT'S COUSIN!

THE FULL MENU FOR THE RECEPTION -- DOWN TO THE MELON BALLS!

THE LIBRARY HAD A LOT OF MATERIAL, TOO.

IT WASN'T MUCH HELP.

ASIDE FROM THE SCIENTIFIC STUFF, THERE WERE REPORTS OF THE X-MEN FREEING A MILITARY BASE FROM MAGNETO --

-- PROTECTING DEFENSE SECRETS --

-- EVEN ATTENDING AN ENGAGEMENT PARTY AT THE BAXTER BUILDING.

ON THE OTHER HAND..

FINAL

Daily Globe

MUTANT MENAC

EMINENT ANTHRO OGIST SAYS MAN' FACES GRAVEST FROM HIDDEN WHO WAIT FO MOMENT TO STRIKE AT VIT

DR. BOLIVAR TRASK, NOTED SCIENTIST AND RESEARCHER, WARNS OF A MUTANT PLOT AGAINST U.S.

ARTIST'S INTERPRETATION OF FATE OF MANKIND IF MUTANTS ARE NOT DRIVEN OUT -- AS PREDICTED BY DR. BOLIVAR TRASK!

YES, HELLO -- I WAS JUST *WONDERING* --

-- DOES THE F.B.I. HAVE ANY *PAMPHLETS* ON MUTANTS OR ANYTHING -- AH, WHAT THE *GENERAL PUBLIC* SHOULD DO?

IF YOU HAVE A MUTANT SIGHTING TO REPORT, SIR -- WE'LL HAVE A TEAM OF AGENTS SENT OUT RIGHT AWAY.

NO, NO THANK YOU. IT'S *NOTHING* -- !

THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THE X-MEN WERE SEEN FREQUENTLY IN GREENWICH VILLAGE. I THOUGHT IF I COULD FIND THEM --

MAYBE THEY COULD TAKE HER.

I STARTED SPENDING EVENINGS DOWN THERE. AND SURE ENOUGH --

LOOK!

THAT MUTANT KID -- *ICEMAN!*

AND THAT *OTHER GUY* -- HE MUST BE THE *BEAST!*

BUT WHEN I FINALLY FOUND THEM --

FORGET ABOUT IT! THEY'RE NOT *WORTH* IT!

WHAT IF THEY ***REMEMBERED*** *ME?*

IT WAS ***AMAZING.***

FANTASTIC 4 FAN CLUB BROOKLYN CHAPTER

YOU *BET* WE'RE GOING TO BE THERE! RIGHT UP *FRONT!* WE'LL CAMP OUT *ALL WEEK* IF WE HAVE TO!

THE CITY WAS GEARING UP FOR THE ***EVENT OF THE DECADE*** *--*

YEAH. THE WHOLE THING'S ON *CHANNEL FIVE.* A COUPLE INTERVIEWS AN' SUCH, THEN THE *WEDDIN' ITSELF.*

WE'RE GONNA GRILL UP SOME *STEAKS,* HAVE A FEW FRIENDS IN -- YOU KNOW. MAKE AN *EVENIN'* OF IT.

YOU?

-- AND I WAS SO PREOCCUPIED, I PRACTICALLY ***SLEEPWALKED*** *THROUGH IT.*

LOOK! *LOOK!* IT'S *TONY STARK!*

AND -- IS THAT *LAUREN BACALL?*

OH! THERE'S MILLIE COLLINS -- THE *MODEL!* MY BOY HAS HER *POSTER!*

IT WAS A *LOVELY* WEDDING.

I REMEMBER THINKING AT THE TIME THAT WITH SO *MANY* MARVELS IN ONE PLACE -- IT WOULD BE AN IDEAL TIME FOR THEIR ENEMIES TO *STRIKE.* TO WIPE THEM ALL OUT AT ONCE

BUT IT ALL WENT OFF WITHOUT A *HITCH.*

IT WASN'T UNTIL *AFTERWARD*, WHEN I MET BARNEY TO DELIVER MY FILM --

PHIL!

I'LL HAVE THIS *MESSENGERED* OVER TO THE GLOBE DARKROOM RIGHT AWAY -- PHOTO EDITOR'S *READY AND WAITING!*

YOU'LL MAKE DEADLINE ON THE *FEATURE?*

YOU'LL HAVE IT TOMORROW BY *FIVE O'CLOCK.*

FABULOUS!

THEN JOIN THE PARTY! HAVE A BEER!

LOOK WHO'S BEEN ASKIN' FOR YOU!

IGGY --?

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN *YEARS!*

I'M RUNNIN' A DELI NOW -- IN THE *BAXTER BUILDING,* NO LESS BUT I HAD TO COME DOWN HERE FOR *THIS* --

Daily Bugle

ALL-WINNERS SQUAD TRIUMPHS

HAD TO BE WITH PEOPLE WITH *PRINTER'S INK* IN THEIR VEINS

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT CAUSES MUTATIONS!

YOUR OWN CHILDREN MAY BE MUTANTS!

WHAT --?

WHO'S THAT?

THE *BIG DEBATE* -- BOLIVAR TRASK AN' SOME *EGGHEAD* NAME A' *XAVIER!*

HE SAYS WE'RE ALL *OFF-BASE* ABOUT THE MUTIES -- THEY'RE JUST *FLUFFY WIDDLE BUNNIES* WHO WANT TO MAKE *NICE* WITH US!

PFAH!

YOU MUST NOT LET IGNORANCE, RUMOR OR UNREASONING FEAR STAMPEDE YOU!

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE JUST A *DEBATE*...

HERE'S TRASK -- LOOKS LIKE *KARLOFF*, DON'T HE?

YOU SOME KINDA *MUTIE-LOVER* -- ?!

I HAVE CREATED A *DEFENSE* FOR MANKIND! WHETHER I WIN OR LOSE THIS DEBATE DOES NOT MATTER...

...THE MUTANTS WILL *NEVER* TAKE OVER THE HUMAN RACE NOW!

NOT WHILE MY NEW ARMY OF *SENTINELS* LIVES!

"SENTI-NELS?"

A *PAL* OF MINE AT M.I.T. TOLD ME WHAT TRASK IS UP TO.

WATCH *THIS*...

SENTINEL! TAKE THE PRO-FESSOR INTO *CUSTODY!*

GOOD HEAVENS!

WHAT *IS* THIS --?

THE BAR WAS SILENT -- BUT *TRASK* WASN'T. HE TOLD US ABOUT HIS MUTANT-HUNTING *ROBOT ARMY* --

-- ABOUT HOW THEY WERE COMPLETELY UNDER HIS *CONTROL* --

-- AND THEN --

WE ARE THE *SENTINELS!* WE SERVE *NONE!*

WE ARE EXPERIENCING *TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.* PLEASE *STAND BY.*

FOSWELL! GET OVER THERE -- NOW!

BRANT! I WANT A PHONE CONNECTION YESTERDAY!

GAVIN! JAY! WHATEVER FOSWELL GETS, I WANT MORE!

MOVE! MOVE! WHAT ARE YOU -- AT A PARTY?

IT WAS PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE, SENDING REPORTERS TO THE T.V STUDIO. BUT THAT WASN'T THE REAL STORY.

THE REAL STORY WAS THE PEOPLE WHO'D BEEN SCARED TOO LONG.

WHO'D BEEN WOUND TIGHT BY TALK OF MUTANT MENACES AND HIDDEN CONSPIRACIES AND SHADOWS UNDER THE BED.

WHO'D BEEN WOUND TIGHT -- AND CUT LOOSE.

THE REAL STORY WAS THE PEOPLE WHO STARTED BREAKING THINGS.

KS SS H!

KILL 'EM ALL! KILL 'EM ALL!

COME ON OUT, MUTANTS --

-- COME OUT AND DIE!

AND A MONTH EARLIER. I WOULD HAVE BEEN *ONE* OF THEM.

IT MUST HAVE STARTED WITH A *JOSTLE* AT THE SUBWAY PLATFORM -- OR ONE GUY LOOKING AT ANOTHER GUY'S *GIRL* TOO LONG.

THAT GUY MUST BE A *MUTANT*. HURT HIM. MAKE HIM *PAY*.

IT MUST HAVE *STARTED* LIKE THAT -- WITH ISOLATED OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE. BY THE TIME IT REACHED US --

-- THEY WERE JUST *DESTROYING ANYTHING* THEY COULD *REACH*.

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

YOU COULD SEE IT IN THEIR FACES. THEY WERENT THINKING.

THEY WERE JUST AFRAID AND ANGRY, AND THEY WERE LASHING OUT.

AND WHEN THEY WOKE UP TOMORROW MORNING, IT WOULD JUST BE A DREAM.

SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO SOMEONE ELSE.

I HAD TO GET A RECORD --

-- HAD TO SHOW THEM -- SHOW US ALL --

K-KUK

K-KUK

K-KUK

-- WHAT WE DID IN OUR *NIGHTMARE.*

H-HELP --

-- PLEASE -- !

MY L-LEG -- !

IT'S ALL RIGHT -- IT'S JUST *TRAPPED.*

YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY...

IT WAS ONLY FITTING THAT THE SENTINELS *ENDED* IT

AFTER ALL, *THEY'D* BEEN THE ONES TO FINALLY TOUCH IT OFF.

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN SCANNING FOR MUTANTS TO CAPTURE, OR *SOMETHING.*

BUT THE *LIGHT* --

-- IT MADE US LOOK AROUND --

-- *MADE US SEE* --

-- AND THEN WE WERE THINKING. AND WE WERE JUST *PEOPLE* AGAIN. PEOPLE IN A STREET FULL OF *BROKEN GLASS.*

I -- IT'S *OKAY...*

... I CAN WALK...

OH MY LORD!

DORIS!

THE *GIRLS* --!

AT PENN STATION, THEY WEREN'T EVEN SELLING *TICKETS*.

THEY WERE JUST GETTING PEOPLE OUT OF MANHATTAN AS FAST AS THEY COULD GET THE *TRAINS* MOVING.

5 CENTS DAILY PRESS

TODAY'S THE DAY! WEDDING BELLS

SUE!

IT WAS ONLY THIS *AFTERNOON* --?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKING ON THE TRIP HOME.

THE LITTLE *MUTANT GIRL* DISCOVERED --

THE HOUSE *BURNING* --

MY KIDS --

-- *MY KIDS* -- !

M-MOMMY --

I'M HERE. BETHIE. *MOMMY'S* HERE.

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT'S *HAPPENED*?!

SHE LEFT A NOTE...

Dear Mrs. Sheldon
Thank you for everything
but I have to leave.
I do not want youre
family to get hurt
becase of me. I took
som food. Thank you
for the new clothes
Love,
Maggie

SHE WAS OUT THERE. ALONE.

ON THIS OF ALL NIGHTS.

AND WE WOULD NEVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.

-- SENTINELS HAVE MYSTERIOUSLY ***DISAPPEARED***, SOMEWHERE IN THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY AREA.

THE MUTANT TEAM KNOWN AS THE ***X-MEN*** WERE ALSO SEEN IN THE VICINITY.

AND, OF COURSE I HAD TO WRITE MY ARTICLE ABOUT THE ***WEDDING*** FOR BARNEY.

NOT HARD NEWS -- CHATTY ***ATMOSPHERE*** STUFF.

I HAD TO RECAPTURE ALL THAT ***MAGIC*** AND ***JOY***, AND I HAD TO DO IT RIGHT AWAY.

NEWSPAPERS DON'T ***WAIT*** -- NOT EVEN WEEK-END SUPPLEMENTS.

DADDY?

IS MAGGIE GOING TO BE ***ALL RIGHT?***

I --

I --

I WANTED MORE THAN ANYTHING TO TELL HER EVERYTHING WOULD BE ***FINE***. THAT THERE WAS A ***HAPPY ENDING***.

I DON'T *KNOW*, JENNY.

SUN-*DAAAAY!*

A CLASH OF *TITANS!* A BATTLE OF *BEHEMOTHS!*

THE INVINCIBLE *IRON MAN* TAKES ON THE SOVIET UNION'S TERRIFYING *TITANIUM MAN* IN THE NEUTRAL NATION OF ALBERIA! WHO WILL WIN? *US?* OR...*THEM?*

SEE THE ACTION! *FEEL* THE EXCITEMENT! IT'S THE *NITRO-CHARGED BLOWOUT* OF THE CENTURY, AND IT'S LIVE, CLOSE-UP AND *IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.* HERE ON N.T.H.!

SUN-*DAAAAY!*

I HOPE *SO.*

End of Book Two